

A TRIBUTE TO THE CIVILIAN  
CONSERVATION CORPS**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to join with you and recognize the 75th anniversary of one of the most successful New Deal programs initiated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the spring of 1933, while the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression, Congress and President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC provided assistance to unemployed Americans by enrolling them in public works projects to better our Nation's infrastructure.

The diverse mission of the CCC directed its participants to conduct public works projects throughout the entire United States. This was not a hand-out, but a hand-up, earned by Americans looking for help in dire economic circumstances. The CCC had a positive result in our region by not only upgrading the infrastructure, but by providing a means where young men and women could help themselves by earning a good living and improving their communities. Nationally, the ranks of the CCC would eventually swell to over 500,000 enrollees at one time.

In southern Missouri, the CCC completed many projects. From cabins and trails at Big Spring, to a football stadium in Jackson, to sidewalks all over southern Missouri, the proof of the hard work and determination of CCC enrollees is still evident today. These projects instilled a strong work ethic into the participants of the CCC, which undoubtedly prepared this generation for the impending struggle that our Nation would face in World War II. Along with the work ethic implicit in the CCC, the program put enrollees to work in the community on basic education tasks like teaching, reading and writing to illiterate peers.

While the CCC ceased to exist after the start of World War II, the concepts and principles established by the program would be reflected in future programs like Job Corps. It is important for our Nation to reflect on the origins of the CCC and the how it has made our Nation a better place to live by bettering the lives of both the participants and our entire Nation.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
SADDLEBACK COLLEGE**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on September 23, 2008, Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA will be celebrating 40 years of providing the communities across southern California with access to quality higher education. Since 1968, Saddleback College has provided access to learning opportunities that promote student success, intellectual growth, individual expression, and a dynamic and diverse environment of innovation and collegiality. I congratulate them on 40 years of success in giving students the skills they need to succeed in a dynamic economy.

The Saddleback College faculty and staff, renowned for its experience and expertise, work every day to help students succeed in beginning their bachelor's degrees and training for careers. They have given more than half million students an opportunity to explore the more than 300 academic programs and opportunities for lifelong learning through community education and emeritus classes for senior citizens.

In 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan, who spoke at the dedication of the new campus, stated, "We are here today to dedicate something more than just another college: We are here to dedicate an institution of opportunity and fulfillment. It is the function of education to help each individual grow to the maximum extent of his capabilities, to help him fulfill his great potential—and it is our job as responsible citizens to provide that opportunity. That this community has decided to move ahead in providing this opportunity is an action which I commend—and an action which will provide great rewards for the community."

I commend Saddleback's commitment to high educational standards, accountability, and results. I look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with them in the years to come.

OUR NATION'S SECURITY IS IN  
GOOD HANDS**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on September 16th, General Ray Odierno took command of Multi-National Force—Iraq. His predecessor, General David Petraeus will soon assume the role of Combatant Commander of the United States Central Command.

By any measure of success, General Petraeus' leadership of allied forces in Iraq has been extraordinary. Under his command and the surge of U.S. forces last year, the Iraqi military, its civilian leadership, and its economy have begun to turn around. Violence is down. Relative order has been restored to cities and towns across Iraq. And Al Qaeda has been dealt tremendous psychological and military setbacks.

The recent handover of Al Anbar Province to Iraqi control and the announcement from President George W. Bush that American troop levels in Iraq could be reduced in the beginning of next year are signs that our strategy is working. However, there is a difficult road ahead for the Iraqi people. I am grateful that General Odierno will be leading our forces and helping this young democracy overcome external and internal threats. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines under his command and American families all around this Nation can be confident of General Odierno's proven record of steady and sound leadership.

Iraq is a different country today than it was just a little over a year ago. This is due to an Iraqi people who are fed up with the hopeless terrorism of militant extremists and have stood up against it. And, just as importantly, it is due to the incredible sacrifice of our troops under the command of General Petraeus. I know his wisdom and strength will serve him well and

our Nation well as he assumes the command of CENTCOM.

The sacrifice of our troops on the ground in Iraq has been tremendous. The loss of life in the pursuit of a stable and secure Iraq has been difficult to bear for this Nation and, in particular, our military families. Americans should be eternally grateful for our brave troops and their families and for the freedoms and blessings they protect and defend. The best plan to protect American families and Iraqi families is to defeat terrorism overseas at the source.

## HONORING CORIDEN BRYANT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Coriden Bryant of Blue Springs, Missouri. Coriden is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1306, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Coriden has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Coriden has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Coriden Bryant for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THANKS TO GIL BALDWIN FOR A  
JOB WELL DONE**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Ernest Gilman Baldwin, Associate Director for Program Management in the Office of the Chief Information Officer at the Government Printing Office. Gil, as he is known to his friends and colleagues, is retiring next month following 35 years of dedicated Federal service at the GPO in support of the Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public.

Beginning in the Congressional Record Index Office in 1973, Mr. Baldwin joined GPO's Superintendent of Documents organization in 1974. There he spent most of his career working with the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), the oldest and most respected free Government information program in the world, which makes available for public use the official publications of this House and of the Senate, as well as those of the executive and judicial branches. Mr. Baldwin rose through the ranks to become Director of Library Programs in 1998, along the way winning the respect and affection of GPO's staff and librarians in more than 1,200 depository libraries located in every State and congressional district.